

Gates priest arrested on sex-abuse charges

By Steve Mills

Democrat and Chronicle

A 51-year-old Gates priest was arrested on misdemeanor sex charges yesterday in connection with two recent incidents with a local woman, according to police.

The Rev. Thomas F. Corbett, who is the associate pastor at St. Theodore's Church, was charged with two counts of third-degree sexual abuse.

Chief of Police Thomas J. Roche said Corbett was issued an appearance ticket, and he was scheduled to

be in Gates Town Court on March 13 for a 6 p.m. hearing.

Corbett could not be reached for comment yesterday. But a spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, the Rev. George Norton, said Corbett had retained a lawyer and had been placed on administrative leave.

Roche would not discuss in detail the allegations against Corbett. He said, however, that they stemmed from a complaint from a Gates woman, whom he described only as being in her mid-30s. He was unsure if she was a member of the congre-

gation at St. Theodore's, at 168 Spencerport Road.

The alleged incidents occurred over the past two weeks. The woman told police that the priest had made sexual contact without her consent, according to Roche.

The allegations came to the attention of police after the woman told a social service worker of the incidents; the social service worker in turn reported them to police.

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